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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date Summary Prepared:

March 19, 2014

I.D. Number: M/001/0067
Date Original Notice Received: April 22, 2005
County: Beaver
New/Existing: Additional processing and tailings disposal facilities, located exclusively on private lands, will be added to the existing operation.
Mineral Ownership: FEE, SITLA, BLM
Surface Ownership: FEE, SITLA, BLM
Lease No.(s): ML-49556

^{*}This summary is mostly limited to the current revision of the previously-approved Notice of Intent, and only essential background information about the existing operation (including past amendments to the plan) is provided here. Description, impacts, and reclamation of the existing mining operation and environment have already been approved. Refer to the Notice and original executive summary for information on the current operation.

Life of Mine: 10 years (minimum)

Legal Description:

Township 27 South Range 11 West, SLBM. Parts of Sections 5-8, 15-17, 18, 20-23, 26-27, and 34. Township 26 South Range 11 West, SLBM. Parts of Section 31.

Mineral(s) to be Mined: Copper, gold, and silver

Acres to be Disturbed: Approximately 120 additional acres of private land (including about 35 acres for the additional facilities, and about 85 acres for the ITDF) will be disturbed. The new total disturbance is about 451 acres.

Present Land Use: Undisturbed lands are used for limited livestock grazing and wildlife habitat.

Postmining Land Use: Open space and wildlife habitat.

Variances from Reclamation Standards (Rule R647) Granted: A number of variances have been previously granted. One existing variance from R647-4-111.12 (requiring topsoil replacement after final grading) is being extended to include the intermediate tailings disposal facility (ITDF) outer embankment slope. The operator plans to hydroseed and hydromulch the embankment slopes, and the rules for revegetation and erosion control on the slope remain.

Soils and Geology

Soil Description: Soils in the ITDF and expanded processing areas are adjacent to and very similar to soils evaluated in previous approvals, which were characterized as mainly shallow, gravelly, and stony loams. The soils are considered suitable for vegetation establishment. Soil pH is about 8.5 or less.

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Geology Description: Test pits and limited geologic data from water wells and other drillholes suggest that the surface Quaternary alluvium in both the ITDF and facilities areas is underlain by variably weathered and fractured Tertiary granodiorite, some of which has been altered. The granodiorite outcropping between the two embankments is commonly silicified.

Hydrology

Ground Water Description: Groundwater has been identified in granodiorite at elevations of about 5,600 feet (an average depth of 167 feet below ground surface) in monitoring wells located south of the flotation tailings area and about 2,000 feet southeast of the proposed facilities. Groundwater was initially present in bedrock at elevations of about 5500 feet (96 feet below ground surface) in production well #6 (located approximately 1800 feet roughly to the south of the ITDF embankments), but it is now substantially lower. Groundwater for the operation is categorized as Class II groundwater due to the levels of total dissolved solids (TDS).

Surface Water Description: Surface water flows in all drainages are ephemeral, only responding to very large storm events.

Water Monitoring Plan: Monitoring of tailings water in the ITDF is required, together with any other monitoring required by the Division of Water Quality (DWQ). Two new monitoring wells are planned, one each at the toes of the ITDF embankments, and monitoring requirements will be determined by DWQ.

Ecology

Vegetation Type(s); Dominant Species: As described in the existing Notice, natural vegetation in this area is predominately Wyoming Big Sagebrush, Indian ricegrass, and galleta (curly grass). Other species include rabbitbrush and bottlebrush squirreltail.

Percent Surrounding Vegetative Cover: Line transect surveys reported in the existing Notice showed vegetation cover of 21 percent, litter 15 percent, rock/rock fragments 12 percent, and bare ground 52 percent.

Wildlife Concerns: The area contains high-priority, year-round habitat for pronghorns, but no other significant concerns have been noted.

Surface Facilities: The existing facilities (including crushing, milling, and concentrating facilities, and the associated buildings, equipment, and containers) will be expanded to include an acid leach/counter-current decantation (CCD) circuit with pregnant leach solution and raffinate storage ponds, solution extraction and electrowinning (SX/EW) facilities, chemical storage tanks (such as for sulfuric acid and other reagents), and other related equipment, structures, and containers (including diesel storage tanks).

Mining and Reclamation Plan Summary:

During Operations: Ore will continue to be mined from approved pits, crushed, milled, and floated to produce mainly copper concentrates, as previously approved and identified in the current Notice. This revision to the Notice will allow the operator to also produce copper cathode from different ore types using the acid leach and SX/EW processing methods and facilities.

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The two ITDF embankments, measuring 80 and 160 feet at their final height, will be constructed from borrow material from within the ITDF footprint, and will provide a tailings storage capacity of about 6.7 million cubic yards. The east starter dam will be constructed first, followed by the west starter dam. Subsequent raises will increase capacity, and will utilize upstream dike construction methods once starter dams are in place. The ITDF storage area will be lined with high density polyethylene (HDPE) (approximately 80 percent of the area) and with a geocomposite (GCL) liner (approximately 20 percent of the area, primarily on steeper slopes). The existing flotation tailings will be re-processed and stored in the ITDF. No material besides tailings will be placed in the ITDF. Water from the decant pond will be recycled to the facilities area for use in processing, and no discharge is planned.

After Operations: Reclamation of the ITDF will consist of placement of about one foot of topsoil on the tailings, depending the amount of available topsoil, scarification, and seeding with an approved seed mix. Approximately half of the ITDF will be covered with a geotextile designed to increase the pressure bearing capacity of the tailings to enable earlier topsoil placement using heavy equipment. Existing flotation tailings will be reclaimed as previously approved in the existing Notice if they are not all reprocessed.

Based on geochemical testing to date, no acid forming or deleterious tailings are expected to be produced, and tailings have neutralization potential. Tailings water is anticipated to be approximately circumneutral, with TDS levels comparable to those naturally occurring in groundwater at the site. Any acid-forming or other deleterious materials will be appropriately managed and reclaimed if they are encountered.

Reclamation plans for the ITDF embankment outer slopes (2H:1V) and some steeper areas include hydromulching and hydroseeding. Diversion ditches and associated outfalls surrounding the ITDF will remain, and the reclaimed and revegetated ITDF impoundment will have capacity to retain the total average precipitation falling in one year.

Reclamation of previously approved facilities will occur as described in the existing Notice, and the reclamation approach to the new processing facilities is not significantly different. Acid leach and SX/EW plants and associated infrastructure will be dismantled and disposed off-site. Much of the remaining concrete associated with the processing facilities will be broken up, buried on site, and covered with three to five feet of fill prior to topsoil application, ripping, and seeding. Raffinate and PLS pond liners will be folded into the ponds and the ponds buried and mounded. All tanks and containers will be removed from the site, including chemicals, wastes, or other materials they may contain. All trash, oil, fuel, equipment, debris, and any deleterious materials will be removed and appropriately disposed. Water supply and monitor wells will be plugged and abandoned as required by rule.

New access roads and utility corridors will be fully regraded, ripped, and seeded using the approved seed mix.

Surety

Current Amount: \$3,504,000 A new cost estimate is being calculated, and reclamation surety is required prior to final approval.

Form: Letter of Credit

Renewable Term: 5 years (May 5, 2014)

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